

Rather to Foundation Winners: Ask Tough Questions and "Dare to be Great"

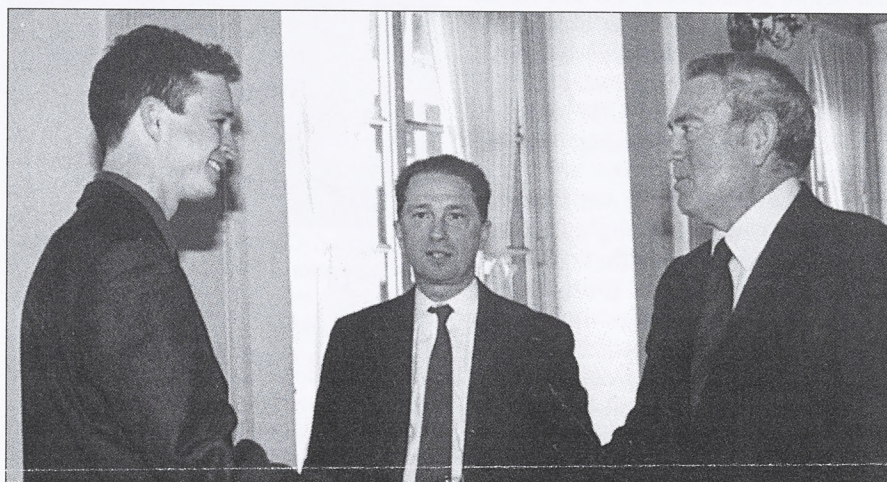
by Lee Townsend

Should we be encouraging young journalists to become foreign correspondents in today's troubled world? That was the question posed by Bill Holstein, president of the OPC Foundation at the group's 13th awards luncheon held at the Yale Club January 23.

"Aren't we just setting them up to take big risks...and toward what end?" Holstein asked. Then he answered his own question: "We believe that becoming a correspondent helps the American media achieve one of its most important and indeed sacred tasks...which is to be the eyes and ears of our nation in an incredible complex world."

OPC member Dan Rather, anchor and Managing Editor of the CBS Evening News, also stressed how vital young foreign correspondents are right now and he issued a "Dare to be Great" to the foundation winners. (Text of Rather's speech starts on page 2.)

(Continued on Page 12)



Dan Rather meets scholarship winner Marton Dunai, a Hungarian journalism student from Berkeley while Bill Holstein, Foundation President, looks on.

OPC Book Night

Andrew Nagorski's "What If" View of the Early Years of Hitler

How big a jump is it from writing non-fiction to fiction? From writing history to "what-if" history? And what does "what if" history tell us about the logic of events today? *Newsweek International* senior editor Andrew Nagorski, the author of the just released novel "Last Stop Vienna" (Simon & Schuster) will discuss these and other questions at an OPC Book Night on Thursday, March 6 at 5:30pm at Club Quarters.

Nagorski, who spent nearly 20 years as a foreign correspondent (most recently in Berlin), has written a "fast-moving, riveting debut novel," according to *Publishers Weekly*. Based on his extensive research into the early years of the Nazi movement, he explores Hitler's appeal to ordinary Germans, the internal splits within the party, and Hitler's

(Continued on Page 15)



Andrew Nagorski

Inside...

Dan Rather OPC Foundation Speech	2
Ruth Gruber, Still Going Strong, Sings the Praises of "Weapers"	3
National Press Club Trip to Sicily	3
OPC Foundation Scholarship Winners.....	4
Next Business Breakfast Whither Wall Street?.....	5
Kurt Schork Awards.....	5
Holiday Party	6
People.....	7
Cartoon.....	9
In Memory	10
Choosing a Stepmother.....	13
Centurion Training for Hostile Environments	13
New Books.....	16

Dan Rather OPC Foundation Speech

(The following is the prepared text of Dan Rather's keynote speech Jan. 23 to 11 winners of foundation scholarships.)

Thank you Bill Holstein, (OPC Foundation President) and thanks to all of you for coming here today through the frozen wastes of Midtown Manhattan. It's nice to get such a warm reception on such a very cold day.

I want to congratulate today's scholarship winners. I read a bit about all of you before I came here this afternoon, and I have to tell you how very impressed I am. So impressed that I want you all to listen to me very closely: The anchor position at CBS News is not—I repeat, *not*—available. Not yet, anyway.

In seriousness, your work shows once again that performing good journalism calls on many skills, and I think that's a strong part of journalism's appeal. The reporter—the good reporter—tries to know something about every subject he or she covers, and in the course of a career you get to learn about and feel and experience a whole range of different worlds that you may never have known otherwise. This may be doubly true for the efforts of the foreign correspondent, where every story filed has as its backbone a reporter's willing immersion in another culture.

Where others may see the drudgery of research, those with journalism in their veins see a treasure hunt; where



Dan Rather, CBS News anchorman, forcefully addresses the Foundation audience of scholarship winners, corporate supporters, journalists and OPC members.

others see confusing customs and hear a strange language, true reporters sense adventure, a challenging puzzle to be reckoned with and brought to order through critical thought...to be articulated to an audience through reason, and well-chosen words.

Writing is the bedrock of our craft. It took me longer than it should have to know that but over hard years of season and error I've come to think that there is something else that is absolutely essen-

tial to good journalism, something stunningly simple to appreciate yet humbly difficult to accomplish, and that is the willingness and ability to not only ask questions, but to ask the tough questions...to ask the tough questions until they are answered, or until it is clear that they won't be answered. And if that is the case, to make it known to your readers, or your viewers, or your listeners just what the tough questions are and just who is not answering them.

I believe this to be true whether your beat is the county courthouse, or the statehouse, or the White House...and it is true no matter what your dateline—be it Walla Walla, Washington or Tora Bora, Afghanistan.

It is true in times of peace as it is in times of war. But make no mistake: it is a more powerful and important truth in times of war. When journalists fail to ask the tough questions in peacetime, money gets wasted; when journalists fail to ask the tough questions in wartime, lives can be lost unnecessarily.

Or, put another way: in peace, our leaders make decisions that directly affect our national treasury; in war, their decisions affect our national treasure—the young men and women who are called upon to fight, and who do so knowing that they may be called upon to die for their country.

Even as we value both treasury and
(Continued on Page 5)

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Ruth Gruber, Still Going Strong, Sings the Praises of "Weapers"

by Barbara Seaman

Author, Journalist and
Stepdaughter of Ruth Gruber

The January 16 appearance of OPC member Ruth Gruber at Club Quarters was hardly to introduce a new author. It was to mark publication of Gruber's 16th book: "Inside of Time: My Journey from Alaska to Israel" (Carroll and Graf, 2003.)

The amazing thing, as my sisters and I can attest, is that at 91 Ruth Gruber, our stepmother, never repeats herself. When people ask me the "secrets" of Ruth's enduring health, intellect and vigor I answer, in all seriousness, "great genes/great heart." Ruth's mother lived to 100, her maternal grandmother to 90. Regarding Ruth's sturdy and generous heart, she explained to her OPC audience that her new book, covering 1941-1952, summarizes a philosophy of life that she learned in Alaska, where she could never stay on schedule because of "weapers."

In 1941, FDR's Interior Secretary, Harold Ickes, sent Ruth to Alaska as his field representative to make a social and economic study of Alaska in connection with opening it for GIs and homesteaders. For nineteen months she covered the vast territory by plane, train, truck, paddle-wheel steamer, and dogsled. She had already written a book, "I Went to the Soviet Arctic," a 1939 best seller of which Ickes became a fan. Weapers stood for "weather permitting." As she moved about, her typical air travel advisories would say, "See you Tuesday. Weapers." The weather was not the only stumbling block, Ruth explained to her audience. There might be "engine trouble." Or "the pilot might be drunk." Tuesday would come and go, and perhaps the following Tuesday too. So Ruth learned to relax, "appreciate whatever was around me. My lap was my desk. I learned to fix my own typewriter...and camera. It was liberating. Instead of fighting against time and wasting energy *I lived inside of it.* I had space and energy in which to grow." For me and my sisters this was a most important revelation, an insight into Ruth that even she hadn't fully grasped until she dredged her own psyche for the title of



Ruth Gruber exhibited some of her memorabilia from Alaska including totem poles and a parka that was made for her by an Eskimo lady in Point Barrow. The fur is groundhog with the hood made of wolverine which does not freeze even at 60 degrees below zero.

her 16th book. Her calm and constructive attitude in any disaster or emergency, her unflappable focus on the work at hand, is her heritage from her one and one half years of Alaska "Weapers".

Nowadays, many people can't restrain themselves from asking me "Who does Ruth's face lifts?" The answer is she's never had one. But when my 29 year old stepmother arrived in Alaska, a different question hung in the air. "Why are you here? What are you doing?" Mrs. Atwood, the wife of the publisher of the *Anchorage Times* thought that perhaps she "was planning to bring Hebrews to settle in Alaska." The second rumor was that she was Harold Ickes' daughter, or "I don't know what else they said." A third rumor was that Ruth was a spy for Naval intelligence, but the head of the Navy squelched it, "We don't hire women for THAT job." And finally, there were those who believed she was "writing a novel on the sex life of Eskimos."

On her journey to Alaska a steamship

officer briefed Ruth that "there were only two kinds of women making the passage, schoolmarms or whores. The ship officers never guessed wrong, he boasted, and they were seated according to their profession."

"Where did they seat you?" someone in the OPC audience called out.

"With the captain," replied Gruber.

Ruth traveled the under-construction Alcan highway which was incredibly beautiful despite the blinding Artic sun, the dust, and the mosquitoes which "are so big they think they are bombers." Her driver was a short, friendly black soldier named Tom. She learned that the soldiers building the highway, all black, were mostly from the South. "Miserably treated, they were wearing the same clothing they had worn in building an airfield in Florida."

When Ruth returned to Washington she learned that "all the top people had ghosts" Ruth had the honor of being conscripted to answer all of Eleanor Roosevelt's letters from GIs who wanted to homestead in Alaska. As Ickes' special assistant, she was selected to escort the 1000 "Oswego" refugees that FDR allowed into the United States in 1944. Disguised as a general, she flew to Naples, Italy to meet them. These events are recounted in her book

(Continued on Page 13)

National Press Club Trip to Sicily

OPC member Rachael Bail is leading a National Press Club trip to Sicily, crossroads of Mediterranean civilizations, which includes Palermo, Agrigento, Siracusa, Taormina, and Mt. Etna. The trip, March 16-26, costs \$2,245, and includes air fare, four-star hotels, breakfasts, dinners, and sightseeing. Highlights will be the Italian island's extensive Greek ruins plus Roman, Norman and Byzantine castles, villas and ancient seaports. For more information, call Rachael Bail at 703-893-8625 or e-mail, rachbail@yahoo.com

OPC Foundation Scholarship Winners



Eleven Scholarship Winners (from left): Fang Wang, Alison Gregor, Halima Kazem, Adrienne Ziegler, Meital HersHKovitz, Jason McLure, Danielle Knight, Erica Duecy, Kristy Siegfried, Marton Dunai, Mariam Fam.

At the OPC Foundation scholarship luncheon January 23, 11 students received prizes of \$2,000 each. Following is a list of winners, their colleges, the prize they won and a comment on each.

Meital HersHKovitz
Columbia University
**ALEXANDER KENDRICK
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
*Sponsored by his brother,
Victor, and friends*

In her essay, HersHKovitz wrote movingly about a Nigerian democracy activist who was tortured and who eventually fled to the United States, one of 400,000 torture survivors living in the United States.

Erica Duecy
Northwestern University
**DAVID R. SCHWEISBERG
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
*Sponsored by the
Schweisberg family*

Duecy spent time as an anthropology student in Yogyakarta, Java and wrote perceptively about how culture prevents Indonesians from properly responding to the HIV/AIDS challenge.

Fang Wang
New York University
REUTERS SCHOLARSHIP
Sponsored by Reuters

A veteran of two years experience at a Shanghai business newspaper, Wang wrote that China's move to embrace globalization will benefit China's urban

residents, but make life much more difficult for 800 million peasants.

Adrienne L. Ziegler
Miami University (Ohio)
I.F. STONE SCHOLARSHIP
*Endowed by John R. MacArthur
of Harper's Magazine
and friends*

Ziegler traveled to a city dump in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico as part of a hunger relief operation and described the shocking conditions in which children and their families lived.

Halima Kazem
New York University
**IRENE CORBALLY KUHN
SCHOLARSHIP**
*Endowed by the Scripps Howard
Foundation*

Born in Afghanistan and forced to flee with her family, Kazem returned to Kabul and impressed judges with her reporting on the wife of President Hamid Karzai, Zeenat, who has remained largely invisible to avoid offending traditional Afghan men.

Kristy Siegfried
University of Missouri
**H.L. STEVENSON MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP**

Sponsored by family and friends
In her essay, Siegfried impressed judges with how she interviewed Iraqi refugees in Missouri and elicited their views about Saddam Hussein and the possibility of a new war.

Mariam Fam
Columbia University
STAN SWINTON SCHOLARSHIP
Endowed by Helen Swinton

Fam, who worked for the Associated Press in Cairo, traveled to Baghdad and wrote about how Iraqis are caught between "harsh U.N. sanctions that have impoverished and isolated them and a repressive government that has planted a culture of fear."

Alison Gregor
Columbia University
THEO WILSON SCHOLARSHIP
Sponsored by family and friends

Gregor, who worked for the San Antonio Express-News, wrote about visiting a prison in Mexico where children live with their incarcerated parents. "They don't cry," says one. "They're with their mamas. They're used to it."

Danielle Knight
Columbia University
DAN ELDON SCHOLARSHIP
Sponsored by family and friends
Knight, an environmental reporter at Inter Press Service, traveled to Tanzania to describe how an explosion of gold-mining activity has contaminated water and killed people, livestock and wildlife.

Jason D. McLure
University of Missouri
**EMANUEL R. FREEDMAN
SCHOLARSHIP**
*Endowed by Eva and
Tobias Bermant*

Having spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Niger, McLure wrote with authority about how U.S. agricultural subsidies for American farmers drive down grain prices in Africa and disrupt village life.

Marton Dunai
University of California at Berkeley
ROY ROWAN SCHOLARSHIP
*Sponsored by friends, family
and admirers*

Dunai spent three years at a major Hungarian newspaper and described in his essay how the expansion of the European Union to include former Soviet bloc allies will force the EU to take responsibility for seven Chernobyl-like nuclear plants.

Dan Rather OPC Foundation Speech

(Continued from Page 2)

treasure, we know the enormous qualitative difference between them, and we should appreciate that wartime makes our best efforts as journalists all the more meaningful and crucial. We might reflect on the sacrifices offered and endured by our fighting men and women, as we try to summon the courage (I use the word measuredly)—the courage of intellect and of will—to discover and to ask the tough questions.

If you were to imagine that I am bringing all of this up right now because I've just come back from Baghdad and because our beloved United States of America is, presently, engaged in one war and on the apparent brink of another, you would be correct—to a point. But that is not the only reason.

I also raise the subject today because there was a time, not long ago, when if you wanted to see an American

reporter's neck swell, you would tell him where he could and could not go, how to do his job, and what questions he could and could not ask. This very American, independent, free press, journalistic banner of "Don't Tread on Me" has been frayed to the point of tatters in recent years, to a degree where, in the Gulf War, in the Balkans, and in Afghanistan, one might think that the banner's words had been changed from "Don't Tread on Me" to "Go Along to Get Along"...because, by any reasonable analysis, there was far too much of that in the coverage of these big stories.

Much as it pains me to say so, I am afraid that tough questions—and the journalists who are willing to ask them—may be going the way of the yellow-fronted bowerbird or of the horned toad. Some of you may know that I'm from and of Texas, and there was a time in Texas when the state was filled with what we called the great horned toads. They were everywhere, hopping about with energetic curiosity, putting their noses into everything. But in recent years, they've begun to disappear, and those that remain seem lethargic, far less energetic and curious than those that came before. They spend their days cowering under cactus branches and riverbank rocks. Why they do so, to the point of possible extinction, is a mystery. So is: where are all of the indepen-

dent, unafraid-to-challenge-the-powerful American journalists?

Is this too harsh? Do I overstate the problem? I hope that I do, yet I fear that I do not. And as I level this critique, I want to make clear that I in no way remove myself from its aim. I know, as one can only know oneself, all the times I have fought with myself and lost the gut check, when I have gulped hard and said, "I can wait another day to ask that question" and, in so doing, let the critical moment pass, unexamined or insufficiently held up to journalistic scrutiny. Perhaps some of you in this room have also known this feeling. It is not, as feelings go, a good one.

Because asking the tough questions isn't easy. To probe where probing is not welcome takes smarts and it takes guts. But we all know that intelligence and fortitude alone are not enough—asking tough questions also takes hard work, work above and beyond quoting a poll, or parroting the party line, or the press release, or the easy cant of conventional wisdom. It is not enough to cover a story—to relay to our audience that which we can see...a good journalist also seeks to *uncover* that which cannot be readily seen, or grasped, or surveyed by lazy eyes.

If one sets out to do this, one quickly discovers, one had better have done

(Continued on Page 14)

Kurt Schork Awards

Applications are being accepted for the 2003 Kurt Schork Awards in international journalism. Two prizes worth \$10,000 each will be awarded to a freelance journalist covering foreign news and a reporter in a developing nation or country in transition.

The prizes were established by the Schork family in honor of American journalist Kurt Schork, who was killed in 2000 while on assignment for Reuters in Sierra Leone. The awards are supported by Reuters and administered by the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

The deadline for applications is May 1, 2003. There is no entry fee. Award criteria and entry forms are available on the website: www.jrn.columbia.edu/events/schork

For further information, contact Irena Choi Stern, Administrator, Kurt Schork Awards, Columbia University, 2950 Broadway, New York, NY 10027. Phone (212) 854-8653. E-mail: ics9@columbia.edu

Next Business Breakfast: Whither Wall Street?

The shaky U.S. stock market will be the topic at the Club's third breakfast on issues of business interest. Allan Sloan, *Newsweek's* Wall Street editor, will be the interlocutor in a conversation with Tobias M. Levkovich, managing director of Salomon Smith Barney.

Neither man claims to have a crystal ball, but both are highly knowledgeable observers of the Wall Street scene. The conversation is expected to range from current market conditions and long-range prospects to the effects of last year's corporate scandals and what it will take to regain public trust. Then the two will take questions from the floor.

Sloan, the witty, irreverent Wall Street editor of *Newsweek* since 1995, is a six-time winner of the Gerald Loeb Award, business journalism's highest honor.

Levkovich, who is Salomon Smith Barney's senior institutional U.S. equity strategist, has been named to *Institutional Investor's* All-America Research Team each year for the past decade.

The breakfast is set for Thursday, Feb. 20 at 8:30 a.m. at Club Quarters. The cost is \$25, and reservations are essential; call 212-626-9220. Please make checks payable to the Overseas Press Club.

Holiday Merry-Makers



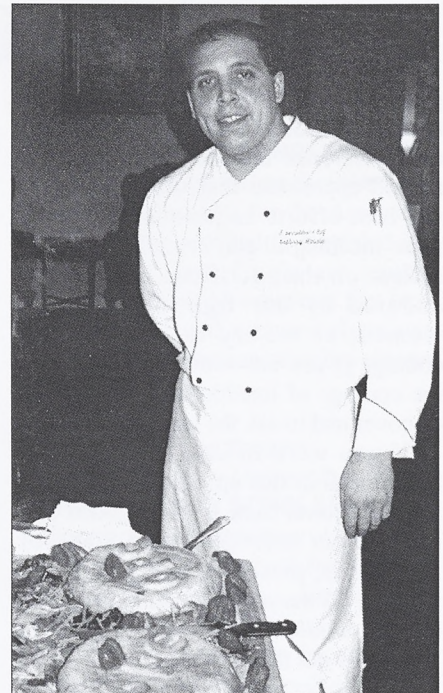
Allan Dodds Frank, Jackie Albert-Simon, Brian McGlynn, Marilyn Frank and Bill Holstein.



Tina Susman, Newsday; David Schlesinger, Reuters; Bill Holstein, OPC Foundation President; Felice Levin, retired UJA writer; Allan Dodds Frank, freelance business reporter; Peter Spielmann, Associated Press.



New members: Norio Sato, President of Strategic Planners International; photojournalist Robert Nickelsberg and Charlie Rotkin, freelance photographer.



Anthony Rinaldi, Club Quarters Executive Chef, designed a special brie with the OPC initials.



OPC Holiday Party invitation.



Lysiane Baudu, correspondent, French business daily La Tribune; Frank Gomez, Philip Morris; Chris Matthews, European Commission; Ian Williams, UN Correspondent.



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

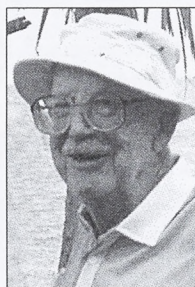
BERLIN: Richard Bernstein, a former *New York Times* correspondent in Beijing and then a book reviewer for the paper, now is the *Times* Berlin bureau chief. In Germany, he succeeded Steven Erlanger, now *The Times* cultural news editor (December *Bulletin*).

BEVERLY HILLS, California: OPC member Barney Oldfield reports: "We are nearing \$300,000 so far for Vada Kinman Alzheimer's Research Fund." Part of the funding came from Oldfield's participation in a documentary tape, "Charles Lindberg Flies Again" (when a teenager, Barney lived in Nebraska near where Lindberg practiced takeoffs and landings), and two books, "A Nation Lost & Found: 1936 America Remembered by Ordinary and Extraordinary People" (December *Bulletin*) and the forthcoming "Kid From Tecumseh." Barney commented: "Imagine! Three works out and I'm only 93." The fund is named for Oldfield's wife, Vada Kinman Oldfield, who died in 1999 after an 11-year struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

HELDERBERG MOUNTAINS, New York: Despite a blizzard, OPC member Andy Rooney was determined to drive his old Jeep 12 miles to a store to buy the morning newspaper, accompanied by his British son-in-law. "It was a bad decision," he wrote in his newspaper column in January. The curmudgeon of CBS' "60 minutes" was spending Christmas with 15 family members at his country house. Halfway to the store and in blinding snow with the windshield wipers icing up, Rooney stepped out of his Jeep into eight inches of snow that covered a sheet of ice, slipped and hit his head on the open door before the car rolled over his right leg. An ambulance took him to Albany Medical Center 35 miles away, where X-rays disclosed nothing broken, and returned him home. "I never did read the newspaper," Andy wrote.

HILO, Hawaii: Chinese New Year fell on Feb. 1 this year, and it's now the Year of the Sheep, also called the Year of the Goat or Ram. Since World War II's Guadalcanal Battle, Robert (Baldy)

Miller, 87, has spent most of his life reporting from Asia and the Pacific for UPI. His holiday greeting: "As we say in the Sandwich Islands, 'Mele Kalikimaka [Merry Christmas],' and all the best in the New Year of the Sheep: May its fleece be golden and your shears sharp!" Miller plans his annual visit to New Zealand starting in February, summer in the Southern Hemisphere, and sent this wish to a friend in New England: "Hope you folks have a short, warm winter."



Robert Miller

HONG KONG: Based in Hong Kong, Clay Chandler is *Fortune's* new Asia editor and correspondent. He was *The Washington Post's* Hong Kong correspondent before the magazine hired him.

HONOLULU: Ed White, an AP correspondent, news editor and bureau manager who reported from Tokyo, Saigon and Seoul during the 1960s and 1970s, underwent heart surgery in a Honolulu hospital at the turn of the year. White is among a number of former Asia-based correspondents who have retired in the Honolulu area.

KABUL: Abdul Ghafoor Iteqad, editor of *Farda* (Tomorrow), was jailed for two days in December after his weekly published a cartoon showing Afghan President Hamid Karzai leading a song and dance performance. Iteqad was arrested on orders from Marshal Muhammad Fahim, Afghanistan's defense minister and vice president, while the president was out of the coun-



Farda's cartoon

try. When the president returned, he laughed at the cartoon and ordered the editor released. After he was freed, the editor continued to publish critical cartoons including one showing a dove marked "press freedom" flying out of a cage as a man tries to shoot it down. Carlotta Gall of *The New York Times* reported from Kabul in January: "Despite the president's easygoing attitude, editors in Afghanistan are well aware that there are others in authority who do not seem to appreciate a joke, especially if it is aimed at those in position of power. Mr. Iteqad's experience has been a reminder to editors and journalists that even though Mr. Karzai has announced that there is press freedom, they face risks if they push the boundaries of political satire."

KARACHI: An explosion in a chemical storage warehouse in December killed five people including a fugitive wanted in the murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl. Fiaz Leghari, deputy inspector of police, said one of the dead was Asif Ramzi, a suspect in Pearl's 2002 murder. Several men have been arrested in the Pearl case, and one of them, Ahmed Omar Sheikh, has been sentenced to death.

KUWAIT CITY: Patrick Bourrat, 50, a French television journalist, died in a Kuwaiti hospital in December, one day after he was struck by a tank while covering American military exercises in the Kuwaiti desert. He suffered damage to his spleen and one kidney and four broken ribs, and died after undergoing surgery. Bourrat worked for the French broadcaster TFI. Reports from the field said he either leaned into the path of the tank to take a picture or was hit after pushing a TFI cameraman out of its path.



Patrick Bourrat

LONDON: OPC member Myrna Blyth, editorial director of Meredith Corporation's New York magazines, believes that women magazines have abandoned women in their 40s and 50s by celebrating youth and fertility rather than experience. She told delegates to the Worldwide Magazine Marketplace conference in London late last year: "This is (Continued on Page 8)"

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 7)

an age group that remembers the way life used to be for women in their 40s and 50s and realizes that life is so much better today." Four years ago, Blyth launched *More*, a magazine for women aged 40-60 that never features models younger than 40. She explained: "Part of what we wanted to say is that it is not about looking young, it is about looking good, because that is how women of this age feel."

◆
David Yelland, 39, announced in January that he will resign as editor of *The Sun* to take a management job in New York with **Rupert Murdoch's** News Corporation, the daily's publisher. He will be replaced at *The Sun* by **Rebekah Wade**, 34, editor of *News of the World*, also a News Corporation publication.

MONTVALE, New Jersey: Bill Holstein moved into at least his sixth news post in January when he was appointed editor-in-chief of *Chief Executive*, a controlled circulation magazine that reaches 42,000 chief executive officers and has a total readership of 143,000. Bill, president of the OPC Foundation and president of the OPC



Bill Holstein

1994-1996, has told colleagues that long-term employment with one organization is an old fashioned concept. And so, over nearly 30 years, Bill was a UPI correspondent in Hong Kong, and Beijing, world editor at *Business Week*, senior writer at *U.S. News & World Report*, editor-at-large of *Business 2.0*, and contract writer for *The New York Times* Sunday business section and *Fortune*. Holstein won an OPC award for his coverage of China's economic modernization, and wrote "The Japanese Power Game" [New York: Scribner's, 1990]. As to his new editorship, Bill commented: "I'm awfully pleased to have this new chance to shape the content of a magazine that reaches such an influential audience. CEOs are looking for keys to how best manage their enterprises through these incredibly complex times." *Chief Executive's* previous editorial director, **John Brandt**, remains as the magazine's editor-at-large.

NEW YORK: OPC member **Ian Williams** married BBC Uzbek Service correspondent **Anora Mahmudova** in the Makers Bar in mid-town Manhattan Saturday 30 November.

Rabbi Michael Feinberg, a "secular humanist" conducted the brief but moving ceremony. The bride wore a traditional Uzbek bridal "chopon" and in response the groom, a fan of Hornblower and Patrick O'Brien, hung a white ensign behind the couple. The Rabbi wore a traditional Uzbek rabbi's cap to maintain the spirit of the occasion.



Anora Mahmudova and Ian Williams.

◆
Onward and upward for OPC Foundation Scholarship winners. After an internship with CNN in Beijing and Havana, **Melissa Chan** now is a news desk assistant at ABC News in New York. She told **Brooke Janis**, Foundation director, that she hopes to find a foreign reporting job and would love to work with a wire service. Melissa won the 2001 Alexander Kendrick Scholarship with her report on covering anti-government demonstrations in Hong Kong.

Carissa S. Wyant won last year's Dan Eldon Scholarship with an essay on Jerusalem, writing: "I want Christians, Jews and Muslims to live peacefully in this holy city. After all, we shouldn't forget that we all pray to one and the same God." Carissa now is working on a master's degree in comparative religion at Yale University's Divinity School. She reported to the OPC: "I plan on doing my dissertations on the monotheistic traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, while highlighting their commonalities and shared

traditions of teaching peace."

Brad Wong, who won last year's David Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship with a report on Chinese peasants who are unable to eke out a living in agriculture, now is a reporter at Washington's *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. He wrote: "Here in Seattle, of course, I'm always trying to do Asia-related stories. But I have a good mix of crime, education, government and just wacky stories."

◆
New York's *Daily News* headlined the January story: "CNN sacks big names." One of those big names was longtime OPC member **Allan Dodds Frank**, CNN's financial news senior correspondent. The network dismissed Frank and **Brooks Jackson**, senior Washington correspondent; **James Hattori**, San Francisco-based anchor; and **Bruce Francis**, CNNfn anchor. **Garrick Utley**, a longtime foreign correspondent for NBC and ABC before joining CNN, resigned because he said the network was using fewer of his reports. Allan told "People" that his CNN contract expired in August, but he was kept on without a contract renewal until near year's end. "I was going to take a Christmas vacation anyway," he said with his usual sense of humor. He lost his job shortly after winning a Gerald Loeb financial journalism award for his reporting on the financing of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Miami-based reporter **Mark Potter** also was told his contract would not be renewed. Commenting on CNN's staff changes,



Mark Potter



Walter Isaacson



Brooks Jackson



Garrick Utley



Signe Wilkinson, *Philadelphia Daily News*

Phyllis Furman, *Daily News* business writer, wrote: "The moves are the latest sign of a shift at CNN under chairman **Walter Isaacson** away from longer think pieces and investigative reporting by veteran broadcasters, toward snappy live reports, marquee-name anchors, and younger reporters, insiders said."

But then Isaacson announced in mid-January that he would leave the network this spring to become chief executive of the Aspen Institute, a nonprofit research center specializing in public policy issues and with campuses in Colorado, Washington, D.C., and Maryland. New York *Times* reporter **Jim Rutenberg** wrote: "From the time he arrived at CNN's Atlanta headquarters and had to confront the growing ratings success of the Fox News Channel, it was clear that the television business was not necessarily a favorite of Mr. Isaacson's. TV's obsession with ratings and its perceived lack of depth (at least relative to print journalism) grated on him, according to associates." *The Times* quoted Isaacson, a former Rhodes scholar: "Look, there were things I really loved at CNN, but I did not see myself spending the rest of my life as a TV executive. I always wanted a time when I could be a writer and thinker and be involved in ideas and policy making."

Isaacson joined CNN two years ago when he was editorial director of Time, Inc., publisher of *Time*, *Fortune*, *Sports Illustrated* and *People*. He will be replaced at CNN by his deputy, **Jim Walton**, a CNN employee for 22 years and former head of CNN Sports Illustrated, which failed in its effort to challenge ESPN.

Here are some items lifted from last year's *AP World*, the wire service's magazine for staff and member news organizations. OPC member **Edith Lederer**, AP's U.N. bureau chief, won the 2002 United Nations Correspondents Association's Silver Medal "for excellence and depth of coverage." U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan presented her with a plaque and a check for \$2,500. Edie reported from Vietnam, Hong Kong and London before her assignment to the U.N.

Another OPC member, **Kelly Smith Tunney**, AP's director of corporate communications, was appointed a vice president of the news service. Kelly was sent to Vietnam in 1967, AP's first woman correspondent to be assigned to a war zone since World War II, and she was Seoul bureau chief, 1989-1995.

AP staff moves overseas: **Jocelyn Noveck**, from Paris news editor to

New York bureau chief; **Geoff Spencer**, Jakarta bureau chief to Asia news editor in Bangkok; and **Rob Taggart**, formerly with Reuters in Hong Kong and Singapore, appointed AP's senior photo editor for Europe, the Middle East and Africa based in London.

Mara Barbieri, head of administration at AP's Rome bureau for nearly a decade, died last June after a long illness. She coordinated development of AP's domestic photo service in Italy and expansion into television.



Kelly Smith Tunney



Mara Barbieri

The Associated Press announced in January that it plans to move its world headquarters from 50 Rockefeller Plaza to another Manhattan location next year. The wire service reported in a dispatch: "The decision was driven by AP's desire to modernize and expand and by a steep

(Continued on Page 10)

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 9)

rent increase the news cooperative would have faced in its current home, said **David Tomlin**, assistant to AP president and CEO **Louis D. Boccardi**. AP has occupied the Associated Press Building in Rockefeller Center since 1938. AP now has 850 employees in the building, more than twice the number in 1938, and occupies more than five floors of the building. In an e-mail to the staff, Boccardi wrote: "As you know firsthand, it [present headquarters] has been a challenging environment in which to modernize, reorganize and expand."

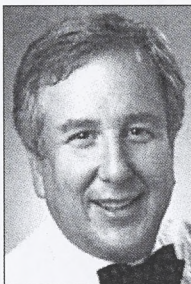
TOKYO: From his home in Tokyo, **Bernie Krisher**, 70, reports that by the end of last year more than 200 schools have been built in Cambodian villages that lacked classrooms with funds collected in his worldwide drive. Also he has signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank to build 50 more schools with matching funds. "Many children at the schools are hungry and suffering from malnourishment which cuts into attendance and attentiveness," Krisher reported. "So we are setting up 'victory gardens' patterned after the World War II backyard vegetable gardens [in the United States]." Krisher, a refugee from Nazi Germany, was for many years a Tokyo-based correspondent for *Newsweek* and later *Fortune* before starting drives to help feed the hungry in North Korea and later to build schools and hospitals for the needy in Cambodia.

New members of the Foreign Correspondents' Club include **Han Jianjun**, China's Xinhua News Agency; **Joachim Bergstrom**, *World Press Review*; **Patrick W. Buis**, *De Telegraaf* of the Netherlands; **Brian Barry**, *The Economist*; **Toru Maeda**, *Sankei Shimbun* and a former correspondent for the Japanese daily in the Middle East and Eastern Europe; **Akihiko Tatebayashi**, *Bungei Shunju*; and **Mitsuhisa Yoshino**, QUICK Money Line Telerate and a former correspondent in Australia and Washington, D.C., for *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* to which QUICK is affiliated.

WASHINGTON: Marcy McGinnis, senior vice president for news coverage at CBS News, was appointed co-chair of the International Women's Media

Foundation in January, joining **Lynn Povich**, the other co-chair. McGinnis replaced **Bailey Morris-Eck**, who remains on the board. Newly appointed board members are **Liza Gross**, executive managing editor of *El Nuevo Dia* in Puerto Rico, and **Paula Madison**, president and general manager of NBC4 in Los Angeles.

◆ OPC member **Matthew Winkler** is a new board member of the International Center for Journalists. Now editor-in-chief of Bloomberg News, Winkler was European financial correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal* in London 1982-1987.



Matthew Winkler

YEREVAN, Armenia: **Tigran Nagdalyan**, 36, council chairman of Armenia's Public Television and Radio, was killed in December with a single shot to his head while leaving his parent's home. In addition to heading Armenia's main TV channel, Nagdalyan was host of a weekly news program. Reuters reported: "Attacks on journalists are rare in Armenia, although the country is no stranger to political violence. In 1999, a group of radicals burst into Parliament and killed the prime minister and seven other officials."

IN MEMORY

Bill Mauldin and **Al Hirschfeld**, whose newspaper cartoons and caricatures left indelible marks on the American psyche, died in January within three days of each other. Mauldin, 81, whose "Willie and Joe" cartoons gave readers back home a sardonic, foxhole view of World War II, died of pneumonia Jan. 22 in a Newport Beach, California, nursing home. For much of the 20th century, Hirschfeld drew caricatures of Broadway and Hollywood stars that, as one writer put it, "made us all feel we were intimates of the stage." Hirschfeld, 99, died in his sleep Jan. 19 just a couple of days after finishing his last drawing.

Mauldin suffered from Alzheimer disease. Jay Gruenfeld, a WWII veteran of the Philippine campaign, visited Mauldin in the nursing home and then wrote to veterans' groups and newspaper columnists alerting them of

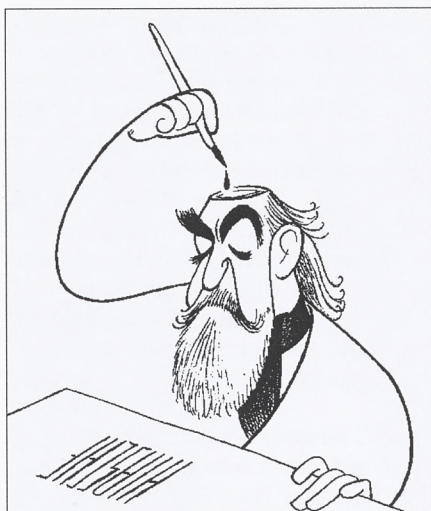
Mauldin's plight. As a result, thousands of letters and cards were sent to the cartoonist and several WWII veterans visited him. A U.S. Army sergeant in the war, Mauldin drew panels of two bedraggled, cynical infantrymen in Europe, Willie and Joe, whose satirical comments on generals, "90-day wonders" [lieutenants commissioned after 90-days training] and sergeants amused GIs and civilians, were appreciated by Generals Dwight Eisenhower and Mark Clark but rejected by General George Patton, who near the end of the war commented: "I've seen only two of them [cartoons], and I thought they were lousy."

In a career spanning more than 50 years of war and peace, Mauldin started "Willie and Joe" in the weekly *45th Division News* during the Italian campaign, then on to Germany with the daily *Stars & Stripes* and national syndication. He covered the Korean War briefly for *Colliers* magazine. In one of his 16 books, "Up Front" [New York: Henry Holt, 1944], he wrote: "They [combat infantrymen] don't need pity, because you don't pity brave men—men who are brave because they fight while they are scared to death." Mauldin won a Pulitzer Prize in 1945 for his war cartoons and again in 1959 for his commentary on Soviet treatment of **Boris Pasternak**, a drawing of the author asking another Russian while splitting a log in a Siberian prison camp: "I won the Nobel Prize for literature. What was your crime?" Arthritis forced Mauldin to give up cartooning assignments in the early 1990s.

In a tribute to Hirschfeld on *The New*



"Yer lucky. Yer learnin' a trade."



Al Hirschfeld

York Times editorial page, **Verlyn Klinkenborg** wrote: "Al Hirschfeld went on and on until the last moment, working and drawing as though death were just another deadline....The cultural history of 20th-century New York is papered with Hirschfelds....what a gift he had for giving us New York just the way we like it, as big and stage-struck and yet as friendly as it really is."

Don Brydon, 80, a former UPI executive in Asia, Chicago and New York, died Jan. 11 of cancer at Parkway Hospital in Forest Hills, New York. Brydon was moved to the hospital from Fairview Nursing Center, also in Forest Hills, when his physical condition deteriorated. He was an OPC member in the 1980s. During a telephone call from the nursing center in December, he told "People": "I'm feeling pretty good, but I can't function the way I use to. At least I'm not forgotten." Brydon was UPI's Tokyo bureau manager and later vice president and general manager of the wire service's Asia Division 1966-1972. He then transferred to Chicago as manager of UPI's Central Division, then to New York as a senior UPI sales executive, became a newspaper broker in part-



Don Brydon (right) with Asia colleagues and OPC members Al Kaff (left) and Pat Killen.

nership with the late **Lee Keller**, also a former UPI vice president, and then a newspaper broker on his own before retiring. Don's marriage to New York jazz singer Helen Merrill ended in divorce, but they remained friends. During World War II, Brydon flew 37 missions over Europe as navigator on U.S. bombers. His only survivor is a nephew, David Brydon, an attorney in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Walter Kerr, 91, a former foreign correspondent in Europe and general manager of *The New York Times* international edition in the 1960s, died Jan. 10 in White Plains, New York. As a correspondent for *The New York Herald Tribune*, Kerr was in Prague when the Nazis invaded in 1938, in Paris when the German Army entered in June 1940 and then reported from the Soviet Union until working in Europe for the Office of Strategic Services, precursor of the CIA, until the end of World War II. After the war, Kerr was *The Herald Tribune's* Paris bureau chief, European editor and Washington bureau chief. He was general manager of *The Times's* Paris edition from 1962-1965. In 1958, Kerr and his wife, **Vivianne Lovell Kerr**, a former Agence France-Presse White House correspondent, founded *Americans Abroad*, a monthly magazine for Americans living in Europe which they published for five years in Zurich. She survives. Kerr later lived in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he was general manager of the daily *New Mexican* and a political adviser to Governor David F. Cargo, and in Paris where he wrote three books on Russian history.

Japanese newspaperwoman **Yayori Matsui**, 68, who campaigned for the rights of Asian women, died of liver cancer Dec. 27 in a Tokyo hospital. Daughter of Christian missionaries, she founded the Asian Women in Solidarity in 1976, an organization that opposed "sex tourism" conducted for visitors to Asia. She also founded the Violence Against Women in War Network that sponsored the Women's International War Crimes Trial held in Tokyo in 2000. The symbolic trial found Emperor Hirohito



Yayori Matsui

responsible for the policy under which the Japanese military forced Asian women into sexual slavery during World War II. An *Asahi Shimbun* journalist for 30 years, Matsui reported from Singapore and worked as a senior staff writer for the daily. She was the author of "Women in New Asia: From Pain to Power" [Britain 2000, and New York: St. Martin's Press].

"In this season of Christmas good cheer it is with sadness that I have to advise you that Russell passed away at our home on Friday 20th December. It happened very quickly. We are certain he felt no pain." In those words written from her home in Killarney Heights, Australia, Rosemary Spurr reported the death of her husband, **Russell Spurr**, 80, who for decades covered Asia for U.S., British and Hong Kong publications and broadcasters.

Born in a London suburb, Russell served on Royal Indian Navy motor gunboats in Burma during World War II. He was one of the first Western correspondents to report from Beijing after the People's Republic of China was established in 1949. Over the years, Spurr reported for the BBC, was Far East correspondent for London's *Daily Express*; deputy editor of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, a Hong Kong-based weekly news magazine; radio correspondent for American Broadcasting Company in China; and Asia-Pacific editor of Visnews. Spurr wrote "A Glorious Way to Die" [1981], an account of the 1945 kamikaze mission of Japan's Yamato, the biggest battleship ever built; and "Enter the Dragon: China's Undeclared War Against the U.S. in Korea, 1950-51" [1988], a report on the first months of the Korean War from the Chinese side. Both books were published by Newmarket Press in New York. A few weeks before he died, Spurr wrote to friends commenting on his life as a retired foreign correspondent: "Things are getting pretty odd when you reach the end of the year and vainly try to say much about it" (January *Bulletin*).

(Continued on Page 12)

IN MEMORY

(Continued from Page 11)

George Weller, 95, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his account of how a U.S. submarine crewman performed a successful appendectomy while on a World War II patrol in the Pacific, died Dec. 19 at his home in San Felice Circeo, Italy. On Sept. 11, 1942, aboard the submarine Seadragon at a depth of 120 feet, Pharmacist's Mate Wheeler Lipes performed the life-saving operation by following a medical manual and assisted by several officers, none a doctor. A tea strainer covered with gauze as an ether mask, spoons as muscle retractors and a pair of fingernail scissors were used during the 2-hour and 36-minute operation. Weller interviewed the crew for his Pulitzer-winning dispatch published in *The Chicago Daily News*.

Weller reported for *The New York Times* from Greece during the 1930s before joining the Chicago paper. For a series on Turkey while Rome correspondent for The Chicago Daily News Syndicate, he won a 1955 George Polk Memorial Award, originally an OPC award. Weller is said to be the first Western civilian correspondent who, defying a government ban, entered Nagasaki four weeks after that Japanese city was hit by an atomic bomb in 1945.

◆
Mary Marvin Breckinridge Patterson, 97, a New York debutante, photo-journalist, philanthropist and one of "Murrow's boys" during World War II, died Dec. 11 at her home in Washington, D.C. In the early 1930s, she shot pictures in Palestine, Turkey and France, her work landing in newspapers and national

magazines including *Life*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *Vogue*. During the war, **Edward R. Murrow** recruited her to broadcast from European cities on the CBS World News Roundup. In Berlin in 1940, she married Jefferson Patterson, a young U.S. diplomat whose family founded the National Cash Register Company. He died in 1977, and she founded the Marpat Foundation in 1985 to direct her charitable gifts to the arts, education, museums, conservation and other projects.

◆
OPC member **Victor E. Waldron**, a writer and author who lived in England, died last year. In "The Wind At My Back" [London: Minerva Press, 1996], Waldron, a lifelong campaigner against world hunger, described programs and people working against hunger. Waldron served in the British Royal Navy during World War II and then went into politics and business in England, serving as director of several companies. His entry in the 1995 edition of *Debretts People of Today* pulled no punches: "King Alfred Naval College, Officers' Training etc. B.A. failed, Harvard rejected" and quoted **Mark Twain**: "Never let your schooling get in the way of your education." A memorial service is scheduled for March 17 at St. Martins-in-the-Field in London. His widow, Lady Olivia Waldron, a past trustee of the Hunger Project Trust, has moved to South Africa.

FOUNDATION LUNCH

(Continued from Page 1)

In a strongly worded keynote speech that seemed to hold the audience transfixed, Rather said: "I've come to think that there is something that is absolutely essential to good journalism, something stunningly simple to appreciate yet humbly difficult to accomplish, and that is the willingness and ability to not only ask questions, but to ask the tough questions...to ask the tough questions until they are answered, or until it is clear that they won't be answered. And if that is the case, to make it known to your readers, or your viewers, or your listeners just what the tough questions are and just who is not answering them...It is as true in times of peace as it is in times of war. But make no mistake: it is a more powerful and important truth in times of war. When journalists fail to ask the tough questions in peacetime, money gets wasted; when journalists are afraid to ask the tough questions in wartime, lives can be lost unnecessarily."

So is foreign news coverage dead as a career for young journalists? The OPC Foundation this past year received 200 applications and essays to choose 11 potential foreign correspondents—and that's a record. There were about 215 people at the January 23 luncheon—another record. This year there were six Patron tables at \$5,000 each and three Friend tables at \$2,000 each.

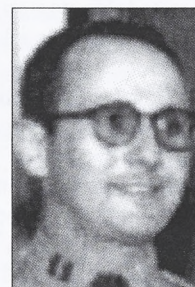
The breakdown of the 11 winners honored at the luncheon were, like last year, nine women and two men. And a

remarkable group they were. One spent time as an anthropology student in Yogyakarta, Java. One worked at a Shanghai business newspaper. One traveled to a shocking city dump in Mexico as part of a hunger relief operation. And the list goes on. (See Page 4 for more information on the winners.) The 11 each received \$2,000 checks and spent the time before and after the lunch touring Reuters and *Newsweek*.

In his keynote speech, Rather, who recently returned from Iraq, told the young journalists: "Where others may see the drudgery of research, those with journalism in their veins see a treasure hunt; where others see confusing customs and hear a strange language, true reporters sense adventure, a challenging puzzle to be reckoned with and brought to order through critical thought...to be articulated to an audience through reason, and well-chosen words...Most journalists, like most people—and yes, we are people, too—don't much relish the thought of getting branded as a troublemaker. Such a label, once earned, can be bad for one's day, week, and career. Or, as now-Secretary of State Colin Powell once said, 'Being responsible sometimes means pissing people off'...If I may speak most directly to those who have earned scholarships today, from almost the beginning of your careers as professional journalists, you will be confronted—in one form or another—with a choice: whether you are content to meander in mediocrity or whether you will dare to be great."



Jim Lea



Sidney B. Cardozo

Jim Lea and **Sidney B. Cardozo**, former staff members of *Pacific Stars & Stripes*, died last year. Lea, 64, whose association with the U.S. military newspaper published in Tokyo, spanned 42 years, died Nov. 21 in a South Korean hospital after a short battle with cancer. Cardozo, who died earlier in 2002, was officer-in-charge of *Pacific S&S* as a U.S. Army captain from 1951-1952, and the paper's civilian general manager from 1952-1955. He wrote a book on one of Japan's noted modern ceramic artists, Rosanjin (1883-1959).



Ruth Gruber.

Choosing a Stepmother

by Barbara Seaman

I spotted Ruth Gruber, my stepmother-to-be, in 1972 at a Christmas party, hosted by Gerold Frank ("The Boston Strangler," "Too Much Too Soon") and his wife Lillian. Ruth was the shortest of the many stars who were present, including the likes of Artie Shaw and Irving Wallace. Ruth was born in Brooklyn, in 1911 so she was 61. My mother, Sophie Rosner, had died in 1970; my father, Henry Rosner, 63, was depressed and lonely. They say it's a wise child who knows her own father, and for matchmaking, I get an "A." With all the fascinating people in the room I only had eyes for Ruth because I knew she would interest him—a lot. Yet, due to her height she wasn't easy to track in the crowd. I caught up with her as she was exiting, invited her to a party at my house, and it wasn't long before I made the wedding, featuring Sally Priesand, the first woman rabbi.

Ruth and my father were very happy, but he died in 1982. My sisters, Jeri, Elaine and I, attend Ruth's speeches whenever we get the chance. At the OPC Jeri shed some tears, and confided that she'd promised herself "This time I won't cry."

RUTH GRUBER

(Continued from Page 3)

"Haven", and in the CBS miniseries where Ruth is played by Natasha Richardson and her mother by Ann Bancroft.

In 1946 my stepmother left government service and returned to journalism. Her first assignment was for the *New York Post* who asked her to cover the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine. For four months she visited death camps, displaced person camps and Palestine, where her profiles of David Ben-Gurion whom she compared to Lincoln, helped arouse U.S. sympathy for an independent Jewish state in Palestine. The next year she returned to the *New York Herald Tribune*, (which had sent her to the Soviet Arctic a decade before) and traveled with the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine through Europe and the Middle East. Ruth was selected as the pool correspondent to cover the perilous journey of the 4,500 Holocaust survivors on the ship Exodus. Her photo of a swastika the voyagers painted on a Union Jack became *Life Magazine's* Picture of the Week, and her reporting was collected in a book "Destination Palestine: The Story of the Haganah Ship Exodus 1947" provided material for the book and movie "Exodus"

and for numerous documentaries.

Ruth Gruber spoke to a full house of 90 people at the OPC for about an hour without one note. The audience was riveted on her every word ending the evening with hardly a dry eye in the house. In addition, there was a small exhibition of Ruth's photographs from various episodes in her long career: DP camps in Cyprus, ships in the Mediterranean filled with holocaust survivors, many beautiful photographs of children and the famous photo from the Exodus in the original *Life Magazine*.

Save the Date OPC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Thursday,
April 24, 2003

Award entries are stacked up in the OPC office; judges are revving up and plans are in the works for the awards dinner so be a part of it and hold on to the important date of 4/24/03.

Centurion Training for Hostile Environments

Centurion, A UK firm, has taken the lead in providing invaluable training for journalists in preparation for their work in hostile environments. Risk cannot be eliminated, but it can be reduced. Hostile environment training courses are held in England as well as in Virginia in the U.S. Centurion prepares people both mentally and practically for dangerous work in extreme conditions.

On their website they explain their three major goals:

1. Equip people with practical strategies to limit their exposure to risk.
2. Enable people to replace anxiety with assurance based on heightened awareness of hidden dangers to life and limb.
3. Empower them with the knowledge to dispel fear.

In addition to training programs,

Centurion also offers a "Media Safety Net" for journalists, photographers, and media crews to share information about their experiences on a secure network. You may exchange information with people who have already been to such trouble spots as Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, the Balkans and the Middle East. The range of information deals with the stresses of war as well as practical information on high tech protective gear.

The OPC plans to link our websites, but in the interim go to their website for information: www.centurion-riskservices.co.uk

Call: 44 (0)1264 355255 or 44(0)7000 221221. Mail: Box 1740, Andover, Hants SP11 7PE, United Kingdom. Email: main@centurion-riskservices.co.uk

Dan Rather OPC Foundation Speech

(Continued from Page 5)

one's homework, and have one's facts straight, and know these facts well enough to defend them—readily, thoroughly and completely—because defend them you will almost certainly need to do.

Asking tough questions also poses a challenge to the soul: Namely, how do you retain and nurture a healthy sense of skepticism without allowing it to harden into cynicism, which is something else altogether? As one who has wrestled long and hard with this one, the best answer I can come up with—and I acknowledge that it feels incomplete—is that you need to know why you are asking the questions you pose...which requires asking certain tough questions of yourself, questions such as: am I working backward from some preconceived notion of how this story goes, or am I asking out of unthinking habit, or because I'm trying to play some game of "Gotcha"? One asks these questions to escape cynicism, and one answers as best one can.

But before he or she ever gets a chance to look within, the tough questioner will face no shortage of trouble from without. Most journalists, like most people—and yes, we are people, too—don't much relish the thought of getting branded as a troublemaker. Such a label, once earned, can be bad for one's day, week, and career. Or, as now-Secretary of State Colin Powell once said, "Being responsible sometimes means pissing people off."

And ultimately, responsibility—journalistic responsibility—is what asking tough questions is about. Especially in times of war, when the particular duties of citizens in a free, democratic society get thrown into stark relief. There is no more loaded charge that can be thrown at an American reporter than that which says, explicitly or by implication—"You and those questions of yours...are unpatriotic." But it's plain that the truest, most meaningful and powerful form of patriotism that can be expressed by an American journalist lies precisely in the asking of the tough question—provided, again, that the journalist is asking that question not for him or herself or personal glory, but for the American people and in defense of their right to know what is being done in

their name, by whom, and how, and why.

This is not only the right of a free press, but it is—again—a responsibility, and one that we ought to shoulder despite the aforementioned consequences described so colorfully by Secretary Powell. If the risk of becoming unpopular, or of upsetting the powerful or one's coworkers or employers gives one pause—as it would any sensitive, rational person—then, once more, one might look to the risks that our men and women in uniform face as they assume their wartime responsibilities.

This is all a heavy load to lay at anyone's feet, I realize, especially at such an excellent lunch, where we honor the worthy achievements of young people just entering the craft. It is without apology a summons to courage, and I know too well that, among the many desirable qualities of life, courage is perhaps the hardest to attain and to hold. Finding the courage to ask the tough questions is difficult enough for journalists who are well-established, in mid-career, and all the more so for those, like today's honorees, who are just starting out. For those who are far along in their careers—people, okay, such as myself, who have reaped the best rewards of the craft—it is difficult too, but all the more necessary because to whom much is given, much should rightfully be expected.

But, if I may speak most directly to those who have earned scholarships today, from almost the beginning of your careers as professional journalists, you will be confronted—in one form or another—with a choice: whether you are content to meander in mediocrity or whether you will dare to be great.

Put that way, the choice seems simple: "Mediocrity doesn't sound so good...I think I'll dare to be great!" Very few, though, choose mediocrity with a conscious mind. It creeps in, insidiously, with the willingness to tailor your journalistic efforts and ideals to suit current fashion. Mediocrity may, in fact, be good for your career, if you are content to define your career in a certain way. It might indeed help you make a living but it won't make you feel fulfilled.

I submit—and this is why I'd probably never make it as a guidance counselor—I submit that it is far better, in journalism as in so many endeavors, to dare greatly and fail than to meander in mediocrity. And the element that will sustain that daring best is a view of journalism as a public service and a public trust.

Such a view will help immeasurably in discovering within yourself the courage to ask the tough questions. And it also should be noted that good—let alone great—journalism starts with a publisher who has guts, whether it is the traditional publisher of a newspaper or a television station owner or a news director. From the television newsroom in Del Rio to the newspaper in Detroit, this is no small part of the equation, especially for you who wish to pursue journalism overseas—because a strong commitment to international coverage is as much as anything else the mark of serious journalistic intent in a news organization. And despite the present state of world affairs, such a commitment is increasingly and distressingly in short supply. It is a commitment that is expressed not only in words but also in the dedication of financial resources to the cause—a cause that is one and the same as that of asking the tough questions. It should go without saying that you can't ask the tough questions—not all the ones that desperately need asking—unless you maintain a presence in the places where they most urgently need to be asked.

I don't feel qualified to philosophize on life's big questions; but about journalism, I strongly believe that you will find yourself doing your best work when you listen to your inner self and act on that voice. I'm not talking about reporting your instincts, but following them. And when they lead you in the right direction, don't be afraid to keep following them. Ask the tough questions...even—and especially—if doing so makes those in power uncomfortable.

Dare to be great. Even if you don't achieve greatness, you will feel good about yourself and your chosen life's work. Your country needs you. So do those everywhere who try to keep the lamp of a free press burning.

Thank you and, again, congratulations.

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 16)

tution closed to outside scrutiny, obsessed with secrecy and hostile to contradiction, protects itself in time of crisis....The Vatican's version of events was a piece of hasty business. Follain's judgment, reached more leisurely and painstakingly, is damning, but not in the dark and devious ways that conspiracy buffs expected."

MIDDLE EAST

• **Con Coughlin**, executive editor of London's *Sunday Telegraph*, traces the career of Saddam Hussein in "Saddam: King of Terror" [New York: Ecco/HarperCollins]. Hussein's political career began under the tutelage of his uncle, Khairallah Tulfah, a Nazi sympathizer who wrote a pamphlet titled "Three Whom God Should Not Have Created: Persians, Jews and Flies." In a *New York Times* review, **Warren Bass**, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote: "Coughlin does a fine, creepy job of evoking the gangster ambiance of 1970s Iraq, in which the nouveau riche Hussein cultivated a taste for fancy cars, expensive suits, American-style barbecued ribs, racetrack gambling, married blondes and sickly sweet Portuguese rosé wine." But Bass called some of Coughlin's charges

not particularly plausible, writing: "It's a shame Coughlin overdoes the 'King of Terror' theme, both because his book features some good, gory detail and because one can make a case for toppling and uncommonly vicious thug like Hussein without overblowing Iraq's link to the war on terrorism. Over the years, Iraq's involvement in terrorism, while grotesque, fades in comparison to that of Iran, Syria, Saudia Arabia or Pakistan."

• The official report said **Robert Maxwell**, the British media tycoon, jumped or fell to his death from his luxury yacht in the Atlantic in 1991. But in "Robert Maxwell, Israel's Superspy: The Life and Murder of a Media Mogul" [Carroll & Graf], **Gordon Thomas** and **Martin Dillon** contend that a hit squad from the Mossad, Israel's spy organization, slipped onto the yacht, administered a fatal and undetectable poison to Maxwell and pushed him off the ship. The authors contend Maxwell was threatening to blow the whistle on the Mossad's darkest deeds unless its officials paid him the \$600 million in interest he owed creditors on more than \$3 billion in debt. In a *Washington Post* review, **Glenn Frankel**, the paper's London bureau chief and its former Jerusalem bureau chief, wrote: "This is all wonderful stuff for conspiracy buffs. But there is no evi-

dence, no credible sourcing and no logic....their book will feed the fantasies of anti-Semites everywhere."

NORTH AMERICA

• In "Forever" [New York: Little Brown], OPC member **Pete Hamill** describes nearly three centuries of Manhattan life through the eyes of a fictional Irishman, Cormac O'Connor. In 1741, O'Connor sails to New York City to avenge the murder of his parents by the Earl of Warren, whose trail has led to America. An African shaman promises the Irishman eternal life and youth if he never leaves Manhattan island. In New York, O'Connor joins a rebellion against the British and is wounded. Through O'Connor's eyes, Hamill writes about England's Colonial rule, the Revolutionary War, the 1832 cholera epidemic, political boss Bill Tweed's last hours behind bars, the Gilded Age, the Jazz Age and on to year 2001.

Hamill spent three years writing "Forever" plus another year to include 9/11. Pete told **Celia McGee**, a New York *Daily News* feature writer: "I finished writing on Sept. 10....The next morning, I was at a press conference at the [former] Tweed Courthouse when we heard the boom."



Pete Hamill

I saw the second plane hit. Then I wrote about all of it for the *Daily News*, and didn't think about the novel. I worked for nine days straight, and when I stopped was the first time I wept.

"I knew I had to change the book's ending, but I agonized. Would this be exploiting 9/11? But there was no way to get out of it. I couldn't write a novel about New York's history and leave out the greatest calamity of all. It would be like writing about World War II and leaving out Pearl Harbor."

Publishers Weekly commented on "Forever": "This novel demands that the reader immediately suspend disbelief, but if this summons is heeded the reward will be a superior tale told by Hamill in the cadence of the master storyteller." Author of 18 books, Hamill, a longtime New York newspaperman, started reporting at the *New York Post* in 1960, now is a columnist at the *Daily News* and has edited both papers.

BOOK NIGHT

(Continued from Page 1)

twisted relationship with his niece Geli Raubal. His book shows that the man who unleashed the greatest evils of the 20th century had several close calls, any one of which could have stopped him before he seized power. Aside from developing an intriguing "what if" plot, Nagorski implicitly suggests that what happened to Hitler, or failed to happen, still resonates today. Most strikingly, this provides the crucial backdrop to today's debates over how we should confront our enemies, and whether and when preemptive action is justified.



Book Jacket

The novel also coincides with an extraordinary surge of interest in the early Hitler. The film "Max" with John Cusack imagines another "what if" scenario, with a Jewish art dealer trying to convince Hitler that he should pursue his artistic rather than his political ambitions. CBS is filming a miniseries about Hitler's early years based on the first volume of British historian Ian Kershaw's biography of him. HBO is working on a documentary drawn from the book "The Hidden Hitler" that argues Hitler was a homosexual. "Last Stop Vienna" offers a far different interpretation of what was—and what might have been.

New Books

ASIA

• Since 9/11 foreign correspondents have published a number of books dealing with Afghanistan and Pakistan. Among the latest:

In "Pakistan: Eye of the Storm" [New Haven: Yale University Press], BBC correspondent **Owen Bennett Jones**, who was stationed in Pakistan from 1998-2001 writes: "For good reasons, discontent with the central institutions is growing. Pakistan's government is weak and, fifty years after its creation, does not deliver the most basic services to its people. Nor has it been able to break down the local power bases of traditional tribal, feudal and religious leaders."

Mary Anne Weaver, a *New Yorker* reporter in South Asia since the early 1980s, wrote "Pakistan: In the Shadow of Jihad and Afghanistan" [New York: Farrar Straus Giroux]. She describes how Pakistan emerged as the epicenter of terrorism and how Kashmir has become the "most dangerous place in the world."

Nayan Chanda, former editor of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and now director of publications at the Yale Center for the Study



Mary Anne Weaver

of Globalization, wrote in a *Washington Post* review: "'Pakistan' is a brilliant portrait of a troubled country, vivid and frightening."

Jon Lee Anderson, who had covered Afghanistan since the Soviet occupation in the 1980s, was in southern Spain when the planes were crashed into the World Trade Center. He sent an e-mail to his editor at the *New Yorker*: "I am guessing you never made it to the office. I hope everyone at the *New Yorker* is OK. I feel like I should be heading for Afghanistan, which I fully expect to be flattened any day now." One of the first correspondents to reach Afghanistan after 9/11, Anderson writes in "The Lion's Grave: Dispatches from Afghanistan" [New York: Grove]: "The sight of women, or at least discernibly human creatures in feminine clothes, is about the only thing that relieves the harshness of the landscape. This visible part of Afghan society is unrelentingly male, as is the land, which is drab and muscular." Each chapter begins or ends with one of Anderson's e-mails sent via a laptop with bullet-proof casing and satellite phone to his editor, **Sharon DeLano**.

In "The Sewing Circles of Herat: A Personal Voyage Through Afghanistan" [New York: HarperCollins], British journalist **Christina Lamb** writes how, after returning to Afghanistan after 9/11, she dresses as a young Afghan and rides on motorcycles across the country with young Afghan freedom fighters. One of the men she accompanies was Hamid Karzai, who went on to become Afghanistan's current president. "With me," she writes, "he would talk about English music and literature, the feeling that he

had lost his youth, and his hatred for Pakistan and his life there."

Canadian journalist **Sally Armstrong** writes about Afghan women in "Veiled Threat: The Hidden Power of the Women of Afghanistan" [New York: Four Walls Eight Windows]. Women once made up 70 percent of the country's teachers, 50 percent of its civil servants, 40 percent of its doctors and half the students at Kabul University. But under the Taliban women became virtually invisible. Sima Samar, a medical doctor and now Afghanistan's deputy prime minister, is one of the women profiled by Armstrong. During the Taliban rule, Samar kept underground schools and clinics open for women.

EUROPE

• **John Follain**, a former Reuters correspondent covering the Vatican, spent more than three years investigating the 1998 murder of the Vatican's Swiss Guard commander and his wife in the Vatican barracks, and then wrote "City of Secrets: The Truth Behind the Murders at the Vatican" [New York: Morrow]. The Vatican's official explanation of the most gruesome violence on its premises since the Middle Ages: Because he had been denied a medal, a Swiss Guard enlisted man shot the commander and wife and then committed suicide. But rumors in Rome called it a crime of passion, a gay affair turned sour, a plot involving the Opus Dei religious order or even a plot connected with East Germany's secret police. In a *New York Daily News* review, **Bill Bell** wrote: "In the end, 'Secrets' is an account of the way an insti-

(Continued on Page 15)

BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Conversation with
Allan Sloan, Newsweek
and **Tobias Levkovich,**
Salomon Smith Barney

"Whither Wall Street?"
Thursday, February 20
at 8:30am

BOOK NIGHT

Andrew Nagorski
"Last Stop Vienna"
Thursday, March 6
at 5:30pm

Both at Club Quarters
40 West 45 Street

The Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA